

A Closer Look at an Effigy Pipe from Near Trinway, Muskingum County, Ohio

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In 1972, Murphy described and illustrated an unusual bird effigy pipe from the archaeological collections housed in the Paul R. Stewart science building at Waynesburg College, Waynesburg, Pennsylvania. The pipe is labelled as follows: "'Peace' pipe/Near Trenway, Ohio/Donated by Charles M. Ewing." It was believed to be a Fort Ancient pipe possibly representing a bobwhite, a tentative identification based upon the stubbiness of the beak and body proportions. An incised oval on the breast or lower neck area of the bird was believed either to represent a color patch consonant with the quail identification or to be an example of Indian "X-ray" drawing representing internal vital organs or the life force (Norona, 1955). Carved from local stiltstone, the pipe is $5\frac{1}{8}$ inches long and about 3 inches wide.

Recently, through the courtesy of James Randolph, Waynesburg College, the authors were permitted to remove this pipe from the showcase for a closer examination. We discovered that the pipe bears a number of additional engravings that can not be seen through the display case glass. The most unusual of these are two snakes, one of which is incised on the left side of the pipe (Fig. 1), immediately below the left leg, which is crudely incised beneath the slightly flanged, cross-hatched wing. A second snake, not visible in the accompanying photographs, is draped around the bird's neck, its tail in the

bird's mouth. Both snakes are ornamented with sets of chevrons that apparently represent color bands. Also faintly engraved on the pipe are two crude arrows, one pointing upward on the middle of the bird's right side, the other on the front of the bird's left breast, immediately in front of the tail of the one snake, pointing upward toward the bird's head.

If the interpretation of the incised oval and line connecting it to the bird's mouth as an "X-ray" drawing representing the bird's stomach is accepted, the pipe should probably be considered a representation of some raptorial bird eating its prey. In any case, the bobwhite identification is no longer acceptable. The pipe is believed to be an unusual example of the raptorial bird motif in Fort Ancient art. The occurrence of an "X-ray" drawing on the pipe would strengthen the belief that "X-ray" petroglyphs in the Ohio Valley area are Late Prehistoric in age (Swauger, 1974).

Murphy, James L.

1972 An unusual effigy pipe from Coshocton County. *Ohio Archaeologist* 22(4):23.

Norona, Delf

1955 Indian x-ray drawings. *West Virginia Archaeologist* 7:9-19.

Swauger, James L.

1974 *Rock art of the upper Ohio Valley*. Akademische Druck und Verlagsanstalt, Graz, Austria.



Figure 1. Side view of bird effigy pipe showing incised snake design, incised leg, and faint arrow on front of bird.



Figure 2. Rear right view of bird effigy pipe showing incised leg.



Figure 3. Oblique view of pipe showing incised wings and possible "x-ray" motif.